



Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust Project Review Committee Meeting

**June 17, 2003
10:00 AM
150 West Flagler Street
Suite 2800
Miami, FL 33128**

Meeting called by: LtCol Colmenares at
10:20 AM

Attendees: Members: Mike Abrams, Ted Wilde
Staff: Daniel Alfonso, Maria Batista, Patty David, Jose Galan, Clinton Forbes, Bruce Libhaber, Robert Pearsall, John Prats, Patrice Rosemond, Nestor Toledo,
Observers: Luis Lugo, Roger Fabelo, Dave Barlett

----- Agenda Topics -----

ROLL CALL

OPENING REMARKS LtCol Colmenares

COMMITTEE MEMBER REMARKS

PTP PROJECT(S) REVIEW AND ANALYSIS LtCol Colmenares

ACTION ITEMS

CITIZENS' REMARKS

OPTM/OTHER AGENCY REMARKS

NEW BUSINESS

CLOSING REMARKS LtCol Colmenares

ADJOURNMENT

OPENING REMARKS

LtCol Colmenares welcomed everyone and asked everyone to formally introduce him or herself.

LtCol Colmenares mentioned that he had completed visiting each project and had scheduled a site visit through OPTM for the PRC members on June 12, 2003 to give them an opportunity to visit each project. He created evaluation criteria to determine whether each project should be recommended to the Trust. The evaluation is whether each project has the following four criteria: 1: flexibility 2: feasibility 3: fiscally sound 4: feedback from community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

LtCol Colmenares asked for a motion to approve the May 28, 2003 minutes. A motion was made by Rev. Wilde, seconded by LtCol Colmenares.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REMARKS

Mr. Abrams said he wanted the members present to be aware that at the last Budget and Finance Committee meeting there was discussion about hiring an independent auditor and the committee is in the process of investigating the options that are available to the Trust. He believes that it is important to have an independent auditor available to review the County Manager's proposed budget that will be submitted in July to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The BCC will then hold two public hearings in September before submitting the final budget. The importance of having an independent auditor is to be able to review the Manager's recommendations especially the maintenance of effort before the September hearings. As an interim selection committee he asked Rev. Wilde and Mr. Cosgrove to obtain access to the County's list of internal auditors.

LtCol Colmenares stated that he would welcome an independent auditor to review the budget and focus on the surtax proceeds.

Rev. Wilde stated that in addition to reviewing the surtax proceeds the ordinance states that the surtax monies will be continually matched by the \$111.8 million of county effort. The Trust needs to make sure that the county match is properly maintained. The surtax monies should not be used to cover previously funded projects.

PTP PROJECT (S) REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

LtCol Colmenares presented a power point presentation that illustrated the various PTP projects in the following four categories (attached). 1) PTP Group 1 Bus Service Improvements Recommendations 2) Rapid Transit Improvements Recommendations 3) Major Highway and Road Improvements Recommendations and 4) Neighborhood Improvements Recommendations. He briefly discussed the two page summary recommendations and further

discussed each section detailing each project that he was able to survey and review. The projects that were approved in the PTP last year were eliminated from the presentation. Each recommendation was broken down into four priority groups. Some projects have already been implemented. He reviewed and discussed each recommendation, which was divided into four sections; a description of the project; whether a site survey was conducted; a general observation, and a final recommendation to the Trust. The recommendations will be presented to the Trust on June 23, 2003 for approval.

The first PTP Group 1 "Bus Service Improvement" some of these projects have already been implemented before the CITT.

The PTP Group 2 "Rapid Transit Improvements" most have already begun or on a design basis. He said he would provide a yearly breakdown of each project to the Trust at the next meeting. The cost of the projects has been projections only and probably need to be revised in the future. However, he said that the spreadsheet that was given to him is very accurate.

PTP Group 3 "Major Highway and Road Improvements" the figures for each project were given to him by Public Works and will be included in the presentation to the Trust. The projects with a red marking denote that no recommendation is made at the present time, because the committee has not reviewed it.

PTP Group 4 "Neighborhood Improvement Project by Commission District" is broken down in more detail. The yellow marking on some of the neighborhood projects denotes that the PRC is recommending to the submitting agency or commissioner to "reconsider" the project. Again, those projects were evaluated on the same criteria from the others. "Reconsideration" means the monies earmarked for that project in that specific district may be spent on a different project within the same district. When a project is up for "reconsideration" it is sent to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. If the BCC rejects the "reconsideration" it will be brought back to the PRC for reconsideration. He would welcome any Commissioner or agency that would like to address the PRC supporting any projects.

LtCol Colmenares commented that Commissioner Seijas has requested that a project in her district be deleted from the People's Transportation Plan (attached). Although he agrees with her request he would like to suggest to the commissioner to reconsider her request in order for the monies already earmarked in her district to be spent on other projects.

Mr. Libhaber said in order for the removal of the street-widening project described as "NW 170th Street" to occur, the Peoples' Transportation Plan would have to be amended. The resolution will need to be approved by the CITT and forwarded to the BCC for its approval, since the issue at hand is the deletion of the project. The CITT can recommend another project in the district to the commissioner or county manager in a separate resolution.

Rev. Wilde commented that he does not think the PRC should recommend additional projects.

LtCol Colmenares also suggested contacting the submitting agency or commissioner when there is an issue on a project to given them an opportunity to discuss that particular project before it is presented to the CITT for reconsideration.

Mr. Libhaber wanted to clarify that the following projects with the yellow markings in commission district 6, 7, 9 and 13 are being reconsidered by the PRC and will ask the commissioner in those districts to reconsider those projects.

LtCol Colmenares said if the commissioner does not want to reconsider those projects in his/her district the PRC would then make a recommendation to the Trust to delete those projects. At the present time, the PRC is reaffirming what has already been approved in the People's Transportation Plan and can only make recommendations to modify the PTP.

Rev. Wilde referred to Group 2 "Rapid Transit Improvements" which has an estimate of \$2 billion worth of projects that is also included in the PTP. He would like someone to clarify the dollar amount for those projects before the committee reaffirms those projects.

Mr. Abrams asked what would happen if some projects on the PTP could not be implemented.

Mr. Libhaber said the CITT has the authority to modify the PTP because a lack of funding. It is under the purview of the Trust to evaluate the cost of implementing the PTP and make recommendations to decrease or increase the PTP.

LtCol Colmenares stated that he has met with Danny Alvarez, Executive Director of OPTM and discussed the cash flow analysis and it appears that the estimated projections for completing the PTP are accurate unless unforeseen expenses and costs occur in the future. There may be some adjustments and modifications but the PTP is feasible. Any recommendations made by the Trust will need to be approved by the BCC.

Mr. Abrams asked who sets the priorities for the projects.

Mr. Libhaber responded that the Trust could set priorities however; the BCC awards the contracts to begin those projects, which is then sent to the Trust for approval. The Trust can reject the contract and forward it back to the BCC for reconsideration.

LtCol Colmenares also commented that the CITT and the committee members are empowered to look at the projects and set priorities. It will get more complicated synchronizing projects once the municipalities begin their own transportation projects.

Jose Galan, Assistant Director Public Works Department (PWD) mentioned that many projects are also funded by other sources. The PWD focused on projects that already had a design or were easy to complete within the 13 commission districts (attached). Once the CITT and the BCC approve the projects they are ready to begin. The goal from the previous county manager was to complete as many projects that the voter's were able to see how the surtax monies were being spent on transportation projects.

LtCol Colmenares asked Mr. Galan to make a presentation regarding PWD projects at the next PRC meeting.

Russ Marchner, Executive Director Dade League of Cities stated that the League of Cities will be making a selection of its CITT representative and would like for the representative to be part of the Project Review Committee.

Mr. Libhaber added that the North Corridor is a priority and it is stated in the PTP, in addition the PRC members need to keep in mind that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) does the overall transportation planning for Miami-Dade County.

LtCol said he would like a representative of the MPO to attend the PRC meetings to keep everyone's efforts coordinated with one another.

LtCol Colmenares made a motion to recommend that the CITT Board approve Project Review Committee (PRC) recommendations with the modifications noted by Rev. Wilde to Group 2, seconded by Rev. Wilde and carried without dissent.

Lt Col Colmenares discussed the two added agenda items: OPTM Staffing and OPTM Lease Agreement and asked the members present if the committee should make a recommendation to the Trust.

Mr. Abrams stated that the lease agreement arrangement was made before the CITT became active and therefore the Trust should not get involved.

LtCol Colmenares stated that the pending lease agreement at the Museum Towers is less expensive than other facilities and because the issue involves surtax monies perhaps the issue should be discussed in the Budget and Finance Committee.

Mr. Abrams questioned why OPTM moved from the previous office space. Mr. Toledo, Interim Secretariat responded that when the two departments were divided office space was needed for the reorganization and the additional employees needed to carry out the PTP.

Mr. Abrams and LtCol Colmenares both agreed with OPTM's approach to the staffing and office space however they concluded that the issues predate the Trust and therefore the Trust should not get involved. They asked that Danny Alvarez discuss those items at the next CITT meeting, Monday, June 23, 2003.

Mr. Toledo stated that they would like the members to be well informed on these issues instead of reading about them in the newspapers or being misinformed.

CITIZENS' REMARKS

Mr. Dave Barlett, Keys Realtor stated that he hopes the members spend the sales tax dollars wisely on transportation projects and that the members do not shy away from making unpopular recommendations.

LtCol Colmenares thanked Mr. Barlett for his comments.

Mr. Galan said he would like direction from the CITT how to proceed with the list of Public Works projects. The Neighborhood projects are divided into commission districts and would like to know who will be prioritizing those projects.

LtCol Colmenares said any projects that use surtax monies should be reviewed by the PRC in order to make a recommendation to the Trust. Those recommendations will then be forwarded to the he Board of County Commissioners for approval. The BCC can override the Trust recommendations by a 2/3 vote.

Mr. Forbes suggested that a flow chart be developed to illustrate the process and interaction among the various departments. (MPO, PWD, and OPTM).

NEW BUSINESS

Rev. Wilde asked if Mr. Alvarez could include in his next presentation how joint development takes a part in projects included Group 2.

LtCol Colmenares asked staff to coordinate with a representative from Metropolitan Planning Organization, Public Works Department, and Dade League of Cities to make a brief presentation at the next PRC meeting. In addition, he would like Mr. Alvarez to illustrate the flow chart and discuss the joint development.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.